GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4189
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2000
PROCUREMENT CENTRES IN CENTRAL BIHAR
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has abandoned its procurementcentre at Daud Nagar, Haspura, Arwal, Warsaliganj, Gaya and Aurangabad in central Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether general petitions have been received aganst the closure of these centres as this is resulting in large scale exploitation of the farmers of central Bihar, who largely depend upon their paddy and wheat production; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for re-opening of these centers and also to open new procurement centers at Hulasganj, Jahanabad, Wazirganj, Belaganj, Mehandia and Makhdoompur?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) and (b) : Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not abandoned its procurement centers at Arwal, Warsoliganj, Gaya and Aurangabad. No procurement center was opened at Daud Nagar. During the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001, 30 paddy procurement centers have been opened in Bihar, in consultation with the State Government.

(c) : As these centers have not been abandoned, the question of petitions does not arise.

(d) : It was agreed by the State Government to operate procurement centers at small places with the help of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS). However, a procurement center at Mahandia has been operated by the FCI earlier, which is operative this year also.